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WEIRD

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A drifter staggered and fell into a deep terrifying sleep. Later he awoke to find the dream was true! Bolh-ech!

CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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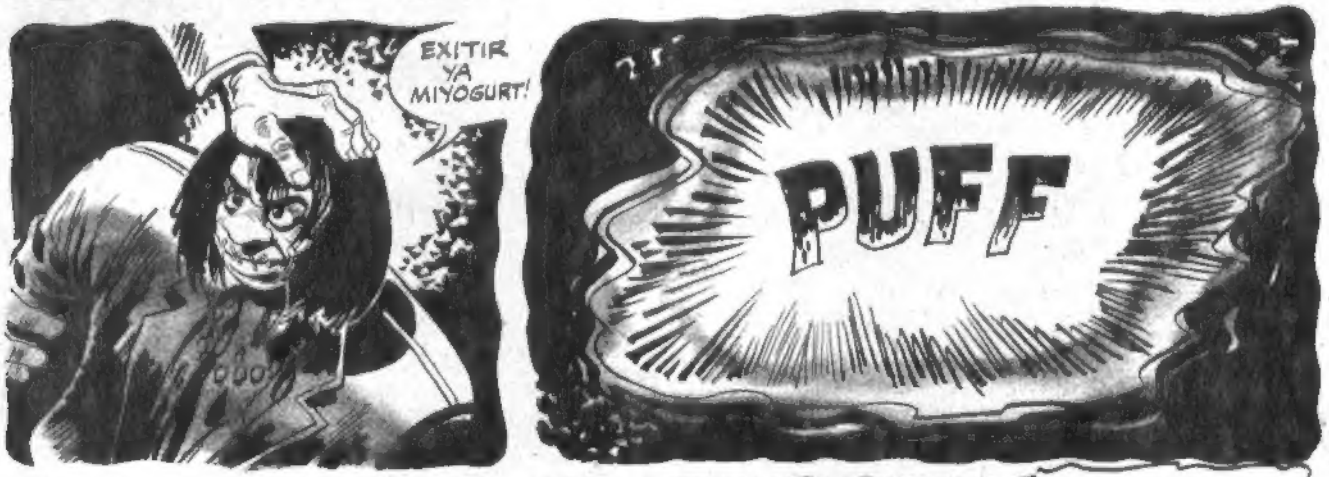
THE SHRUNKEN MONSTER

AH-H-H!! IT... IT'S A HEAD! A--A--SHRUNKEN HEAD!
MICHAEL CAST THE PUTRID MASS UPON THE TABLE. HE LOOKED AT IT IN FEARFUL FASCINATION...
IT'S GLOWING... AND THE EYES ARE BLINKING!! OH, NO-- I MUST BE DREAMING!
THE GROTESQUE MOUTH BEGAN TO OPEN AND SIGH...
MICHAEL STEARNS ...COME CLOSER AND LISTEN TO MY STORY!
NO! NO! I MUST BE GOING MAD!
MANY MOONS AGO I WAS PRIESTESS IN THE SUGALI TRIBE OF THE ORINOCO HEAD-HUNTERS, BUT I WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL-GOD! I HAD POWERS OF EVIL WHICH MADE MY TRIBESMEN FEAR ME!
MICHAEL'S HYPNOTIZED MIND WAS FORCED ACROSS THE SEA AND INTO THE TEEMING JUNGLES TO WITNESS THE SATANIC POWERS OF THE PRIESTESS!
STOP HER! SHE'S TURNING MY SON INTO A MONSTER!
I WILL KILL YOU!
IT IS DONE! HEH-HE-HEE! NOW I SHALL RULE WITH MY EVIL POWER--ALL SHALL BOW DOWN TO ME!
SEIZE HER!

FOOLS! KILL ME IF YOU THINK I CAN DIE! BUT FIRST I PUT THE CURSE OF LIVING DEATH UPON YOU ALL! YOU SHALL SLEEP WHILE THE FLESH ROTS OFF YOUR BONES, AND YOU SHALL NEVER RISE UNTIL I RETURN AND BID YOU TO DO SO...
HA HA HA
THEN SLOWLY, MICHAEL'S INCREDULOUS MIND WAS GUIDED BACK TO THE THING OF TERROR WHOSE SINISTER SMILE CONFRONTED HIM...
...THEN THEY SHRUNK MY HEAD...I WAS DISCOVERED BY AN EXPLORER WHO BROUGHT ME HERE! YOU KNOW THE REST...
GOOD LORD!
I NEED A BODY FOR MY HEAD! I WILL GIVE YOU GREAT POWER AND WEALTH AND CONTROL OVER DEATH IN EXCHANGE FOR A BODY FRESHLY DECAPITATED!
YOU..YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO--TO--
THE THOUGHT OF THIS HORRID PROPOSAL FILLED MICHAEL WITH TERROR! TO KILL FOR THIS THING WAS MORE THAN HIS MIND COULD CONTAIN... YET...
YES! I'LL DO IT! POWER AND WEALTH WILL BE MINE! WHAT IS ONE LIFE, ONE MURDER!
MICHAEL APPROACHES HIS BEAUTIFUL VICTIM WITH VISIONS OF WEALTH...

The UGLY KNIFE DOES ITS BRUTAL WORK...
THAT'S OVER! NOW I MUST GET BACK WITHOUT BEING SEEN...
YOU HAVE DONE WELL! NOW FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS! FIRST PLACE MY HEAD ON THE BODY!
As THE FOUL HEAD WAS PUT UPON THE LOVELY BODY, A STRANGE AND WEIRD MOAN WAS HEARD, LIKE A DEMON HOWLING AT THE MOON... THEN...
NOMO OS DIAKETI TIMA...


EXITIR YA MIYOGURT!
PUFF

WHEN THE BLINDING LIGHT DIMMED, MICHAEL BEHELD THE GHASTLY APPARITION WHICH HE HAD HELPED TO CREATE...
I-I'VE N-NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE!
OUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN. WE MUST SET SAIL FOR MY VILLAGE WHERE I SHALL EXERSIZE THE POWERS WHICH ARE MINE BY OCCULT KNOWLEDGE! YOU SHALL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, MICHAEL!

SHE HAS A PRETTY FIGURE--I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER FACE?
PROBABLY SOME CELEBRITY AND WANTS PRIVACY! THE STEWARD SAYS SHE'S GOING TO TAKE ALL HER MEALS IN HER CABIN!
EVERY TIME THAT VEILED WOMAN PASSES I GET A HORRIBLE CHILL!
I GET THE SAME CREEPY FEELING!

AH! AT LAST THE PORT! I CAN FEEL THE EVIL POWERS SURGING WITHIN ME! SOON REVENGE AND POWER SHALL BE MINE!
MUST... MUST I GO WITH YOU?
FAR UP THE UNEXPLORED RIVER, FETID WITH THE VENOMOUS, CRAWLING CREATURES OF THE DANK FORESTS, THE TINY BOAT SLITHERED...
THAT POINT UP AHEAD! THAT'S WHERE WE LEAVE THE BOAT! OUR JOURNEY IS NEARING ITS END!
I CAN'T WAIT! THE LAND CAN'T BE AS BAD AS THIS RIVER!

AAAH-HH! L-LOOK! THOSE THINGS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
DO NOT FEAR THEM! THEY ARE CREATURES OF EVIL AND MY FRIENDS! AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH ME NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU! ALONE, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT IN THE JUNGLE!
MY VILLAGE! AFTER ALL THIS TIME I HAVE RETURNED AS I PROMISED, NOW I SHALL RULE, AND YOU, MICHAEL SHALL BE REWARDED!
BUT--BUT IT'S DESERTED! NOT A LIVING SOUL ANYWHERE NEAR HERE!

BUT THE VILLAGE WAS NOT DESERTED! CAVERNOUS EYES WATCHED WITHOUT SEEING·SKULLS IN A DEATH-LIKE SLEEP OCCUPIED EVERY FILTHY HOVEL...
MY CURSE! IT WORKED!
SKELETONS! A WHOLE VILLAGE FULL OF THEM!
NOW TO MAKE THE DEAD RISE!! AID ME YOU EVIL SPIRITS AND CREATURES OF THE JUNGLE! ARRA BIANITES! SARTORIS ARRISBY!
DOSID MAGYOSBAT!

ACCURSED RACE!!! NOW DO MY BIDDING... DANCE!!! DANCE THE DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD!!
OH!! HOW HORRID! I MUST GET AWAY! NO WEALTH IS WORTH THIS...

DANCE, FOOLS! HEEEE-- HE-HE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THE MAD, WILD DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD CONTINUED THRU THE NIGHT, AND THE MANIACAL THROBBING OF THE DRUMS CARRIED TO EVERY CORNER OF THE JUNGLE...

THE MADNESS SNAPPED THE DELICATE TISSUES OF MICHAEL'S BRAIN.. HE PANICKED AND..

I-I'LL KILL HER...THEN MAYBE THE DANCING WILL STOP! I-I MUST STOP IT!

NO! NO!! DON'T! I'VE OFFERED YOU RICHES... DON'T BE A FOOL!

ARRRR

TIME WHICH PICKS BONES CLEAN, CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM IN THE VILLAGE OF DEATH! AND AS THE LAST BIT OF TISSUE FALLS AWAY, THE FAINT SMILE SEEMS TO PLAY ABOUT THE MOUTH OF THE SHRUNKEN HEAD!

And THE DAYS PASSED AS THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE TRIED TO HIDE THE HIDEOUS SCENE OF TERROR AND HORROR...

THE SILENCE OF THE EVIL VILLAGE REMAINS UNBROKEN UNTIL..

LOOK, SMITH! A VILLAGE!

SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE GUGALI TRIBES! THIS COULD BE INTERESTING!

COULD HAVE BEEN A PLAGUE, SO MANY OF THEM!
EASY TO SEE IT WASN'T WAR! THEY'VE ALL GOT THEIR HEADS!
WE OUGHT TO FIND SOMETHING OF VALUE HERE ANYWAY!

THEN, AS IF PLANNED, THE EVIL SKULL WAS FOUND!
LOOK! A SHRUNKEN HEAD! THESE ARE VALUABLE! WHAT LUCK!

IT'S A BEAUTY!

AGAIN THE SHRUNKEN SKULL OF THE PRESTESS OF THE DEVIL RETURNS TO SEEK NEW PREY FOR HER LOVE OF POWER AND VENGEANCE...
WELL, SMITH - HOME AGAIN AND WITH GOOD CURIOS TO MARKET, EH?
YES BUT YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE WE PICKED UP THAT HEAD IN THE DESERTED VILLAGE I'VE FELT VERY UNEASY! I'LL BE GLAD WHEN WE'RE RID OF IT!

FIFTEEN DOLLARS ONCE! FIFTEEN DOLLARS TWICE! SOLD TO THE GENTLEMAN! I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, SIR!

And ANOTHER UNSUSPECTING VICTIM OF THE SPIRITS OF EVIL IS TEMPTED BY FATE TOWARD POWER AND OCCULT KNOWLEDGE...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET HOME TO SEE WHAT I BOUGHT!
HE HE
THE END

Witchcraft

SHE FOUND IT... HIDDEN IN A SECRET CREVICE! IT SHOWED HER THE WAYS OF THE EVIL, BLACK ART THAT WAS

BOIL, BREW!! SEND YOUR DEADLY FUMES ACROSS THE AIR TO KILL, KILL! KILL!! HEHEHEHEHE!!

ABIGAIL, GET THESE BOOKS TO THE STACKS AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

YES, MISS SIMMONS! RIGHT AWAY...

WHY IS EVERONE AGAINST ME? WHAT HAVE I DONE TO THAT WOMAN?

MISS SIMMONS

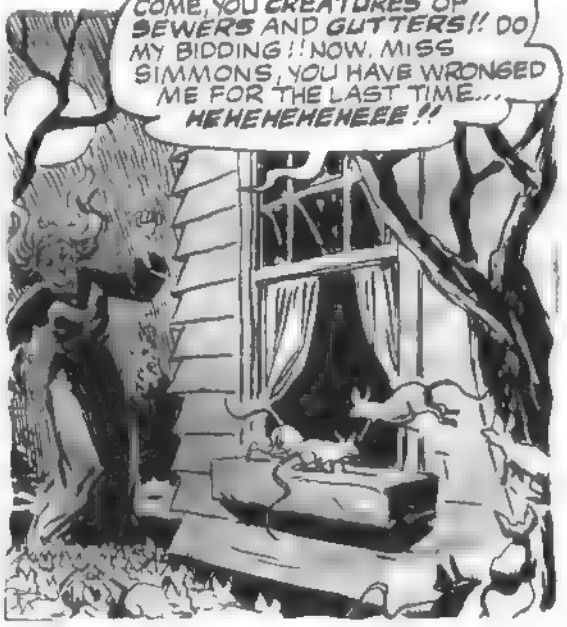
HER MIND A MIXTURE OF HATE AND FEAR, ABIGAIL MAKES HER WAY THROUGH THE GLOOMY, UNUSED STACKS! THEN...

WHY... WHY, A DOOR IS OPENING! IT OPENED WHEN I TOUCHED THIS DUSTY BOOK ON WITCHCRAFT!

A SECRET ROOM! I--I'M GOING IN! I FEEL I MUST

ONTO THE SECRET ROOM WENT ABIGAIL...
THIS ROOM MUST HAVE BEEN A WITCH'S DEN... CAN IT GIVE ME REVENGE?

ABIGAIL'S APPEARANCE CHANGES AND HER BRAIN KNOWS ONLY THE SINISTER, BLACK ART OF DEALING CRUEL DEATH!
CHELIDAR, YDARB MAILLIM... RISE, RATS! HELP ME, OH EVIL SPIRITS! REVENGE... REVENGE!


COME, YOU CREATURES OF SEWERS AND GUTTERS!! DO MY BIDDING!! NOW, MISS SIMMONS, YOU HAVE WRONGED ME FOR THE LAST TIME... HEHEHEHEHEEE!!

OF THE BIDDING OF THEIR EVIL MISTRESS THE SLIMY RODENTS APPROACH THE SOFT SLEEPING BODY OF THE HEAD LIBRARIAN...
EEEEEE!!! HELP!! HELP!! NO-- NO-ooo!!

HE-HEEE!! REST WELL, DEAR MISS SIMMONS! HEE-HEH-HEE!!

WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MISS SIMMONS MET HER TERRIBLE END!
WELL, ABIGAIL, YOU'RE THE HEAD LIBRARIAN NOW!
PLEASE...(SOB--SOB) I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT! MISS SIMMONS AND I...WE HAD GROWN SO CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER! (SOB)
MISS KENNING

REVENGE NOW SEARED THE WARPED MIND OF ABIGAIL!
NOW, ALLEN KENT, FOR BREAKING OUR ENGAGEMENT TO MARRY SOMEONE ELSE YOU WILL RECEIVE MY WEDDING GIFT!

SISTERS OF EVIL, FILL THIS GARMENT WITH THE FIRES OF THE INFERNAL REGIONS THAT IT MAY SEAR THE FLESH OF ALLEN KENT WITH THE FIRES OF DARKNESS... THE SLOW FIRE THAT TORTURES BEFORE CONSUMING!

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER WEDDING PRESENT, MR. KENT!
THANK YOU, THOMAS! IT SEEMS EVERYONE IS WISHING ME WELL!

BUT A FIERY DOOM WAS TO SPOIL THE DAY OF THE NEW BRIDEGROOM...
I--I'M BURNING UP! I CAN'T GET THE ROBE OFF! HELP!! I--I CAN'T STAND THE PAIN...

OH, NO! DARLING SPEAK TO ME!! WHAT FOUL FIEND CAUSED THIS? ALLEN, DARLING.
HELP!!!

BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE EVIL DEED TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CRAZED ABIGAIL CAN REST...
OH, MARY--HOW AWFUL FOR YOU!
OH, ABIGAIL... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. IT MUST BE A NIGHTMARE! (SOB--SOB!)
YES, MY DEAR MRS. KENT! IT IS A NIGHTMARE... OF REVENGE! STEAL ALLEN FROM ME WILL YOU?
EVEN AS IT'S APPLIED THE VILE VENOM WITHIN THE LOTION BEGINS ITS SLOW, BUT DELIBERATE PROCESS...
I--I HOPE I CAN SLEEP TONIGHT! I'M SO WEARY!
...AND BURROWS INTO THE SOFT, LOVELY FACE, UNTIL...
OH, I FEEL MUCH BETTER... THIS... AIEEEEE!! OH, GOD NO! NO... NO!!
MY DEEDS ARE ON EVERYONES' LIPS! MY POWER IS GREAT! IT IS NOW WITHIN ME TO RULE!! NO LONGER SHALL I BE DOWNTRODDEN!
AGAIN, IN THE DARK RECESS OF THE CHAMBER OF EVIL THE WITCH STIRS THE POTENT BREW...
BIRDS OF CARRION, SWARM OVER THE CITY UNTIL YOU BLOT OUT THE LIGHT OF THE SUN WITH YOUR WINGS! BUT DO NOT ACT UNTIL I GIVE THE COMMAND!

VULTURES...EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK! WHERE DID THESE BIRDS OF DEATH COME FROM?

NOW...NOW MY HOUR HAS ARRIVED! I SHALL GIVE THE ORDER FOR THE BIRDS TO KILL!

EEEEEEEK!!! I'M ON FIRE! HELP...HELP! AR-GH-HHHH!

WHEN THE BRAIN OF THEIR FOUL MISTRESS WAS ENVELOPED BY THE EVIL FIRE, THE FESTERING, GHOULISH BIRDS BEGAN TO BURN...
LOOK! THEY'RE CATCHING ON FIRE!!

THEY'RE GOING UP IN PUFFS OF SMOKE!
THEY--THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
THE CITY IS SAVED..

AGAIN THE CHAMBER IS LOST FROM HUMAN EYES...NOW, HOWEVER, IT HAS BECOME A VAULT...A VAULT OF A WITCH!
THE END

CORPSES... COAST TO COAST!

"HELLO! I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS DREAM OF MINE! IT IS ONLY A DREAM, OF COURSE, BUT I HAVE IT A LOT, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE SAME DREAM, AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND IT INTERESTING, TOO! AND DREAMS DO COME TRUE SOMETIMES, DON'T THEY? ONLY PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LAUGH, OR THINK I'M CRAZY! BECAUSE I'M NOT—HEH-HEH—CRAZY, YOU SEE! NOT A BIT! NOW ABOUT MY DREAM..."

THE DREAM ALWAYS STARTS THE SAME WAY! I'M WALKING DOWN A DARK STREET AND I SEE THE PAPER BOY...

HERE, BOY! GIVE ME A PAPER!

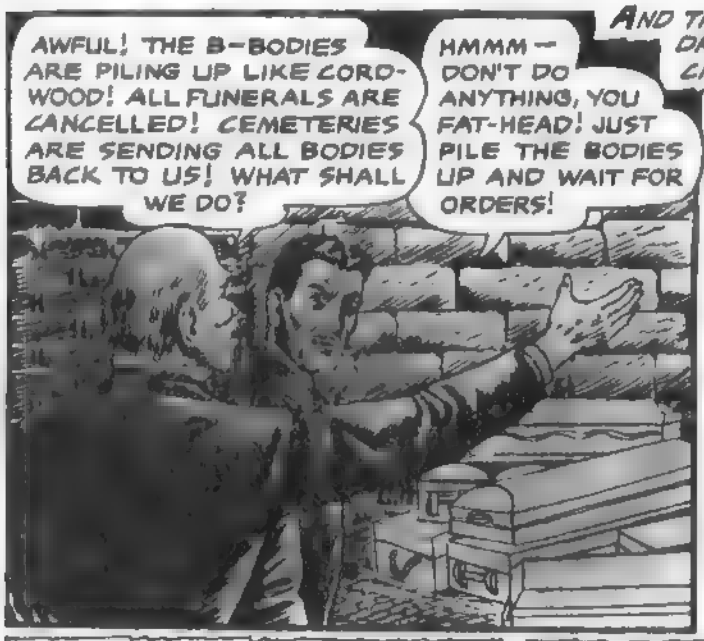
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! BIG STRIKE—TERRIBLE...

AND I READ THE SCREAMING HEADLINES...

"GRAVE DIGGERS STRIKE OVER COUNTRY—THOUSANDS OF CORPSES UNBURIED!" HMMM—WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT? I THINK IT'S FINE!

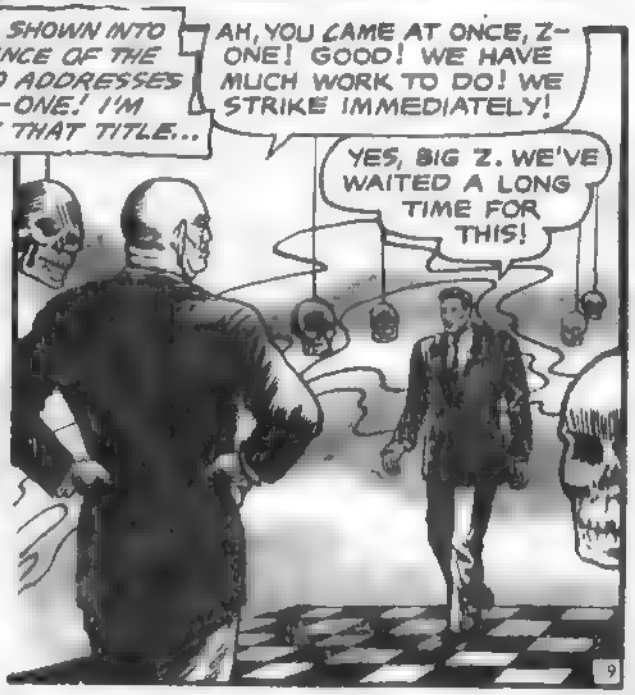
I'M AN UNDERTAKER! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKING— BUT IN THE DREAM I DON'T WORRY! I'M GLAD...

AND I HURRY TO MY PLACE OF BUSINESS, WHERE I FIND ALL MY FOOL ASSISTANTS WRINGING THEIR HANDS...
OH, SIR, I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME! HAVE YOU HEARD—THE TERRIBLE NEWS?
YES—YES! I KNOW! WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?


AWFUL! THE B-BODIES ARE PILING UP LIKE CORD-WOOD! ALL FUNERALS ARE CANCELLED! CEMETERIES ARE SENDING ALL BODIES BACK TO US! WHAT SHALL WE DO?
HMMM— DON'T DO ANYTHING, YOU FAT-HEAD! JUST PILE THE BODIES UP AND WAIT FOR ORDERS!

AND THEN—ALWAYS AT THE SAME TIME IN THE DREAM—THE PHONE RINGS AND I HEAR THE CHIEF SPEAKING...
THIS IS BIG Z! THE TIME HAS COME! REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS AT ONCE!
YES, SIR!

IN THE DREAM I DRIVE AND DRIVE, UNTIL FINALLY I APPROACH THE SECRET HIDEOUT IN THICK WOODS...
YES—AT LAST! WE OF THE U.W.Z. WILL RULE THE WORLD! THIS IS OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!


AND I AM SHOWN INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE CHIEF, WHO ADDRESSES ME AS Z-ONE! I'M PROUD OF THAT TITLE...
AH, YOU CAME AT ONCE, Z-ONE! GOOD! WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO! WE STRIKE IMMEDIATELY!
YES, BIG Z. WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS!

AS YOU KNOW, Z-ONE, THE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKE WAS NO ACCIDENT! WE'VE WORKED FOR MONTHS ON IT! AND BY INFILTERING THEIR UNION, WE'VE SUCCEEDED!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

OKAY! YOU'RE MY RIGHT HAND MAN! YOU WILL PUT SCHEDULE "A" INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY! EVERY DETAIL HAS BEEN PERFECTED FOR MONTHS! GOOD LUCK!

AND IN MY DREAM, EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY! WITH MY GOON SQUADS, I LEAD A RAID ON THE CITY MORGUE...

HURRY, YOU MEN! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! WE'VE GOT OTHER PLACES TO GO!

AT LAST! THIS IS IT!

SURE, BOSS!

AND THEN WE HIT ALL THE UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENTS IN TOWN...

SURE WAS A BREAK FOR US, BOSS, THE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKING THIS WAY! ONLY WAY WE'D EVER GET SO MANY BODIES AT ONCE!

FOOL! WE PLANNED IT THIS WAY!

AND LATER, WE TAKE OVER SOME OF THE RAILROADS! THE POLICE AND GOVERNMENT STILL DON'T SUSPECT JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...

OKAY, TAKE IT AWAY! YOU KNOW WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR LOAD! NOW BALL THE JACK!

GOT YA, BOSS! WE'LL DO A GOOD JOB, DON'T WORRY!

SEE YA AT THE PROCESSING CENTER, BOSS!

WE TAKE OVER SOME TRUCKING OUTFITS, TOO...

AS DISPATCHER I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE! YOU KNOW YOUR QUOTA—A THOUSAND CORPSES DELIVERED AT THE PROCESSING CENTER EVERY HOUR!

SURE—SURE! THE WAY THE BODIES ARE COMING IN NOW, I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!

U.W.Z.

AND IN MY DARK DREAM, ACROSS THE DREARY COUNTRYSIDE, I CAN SEE TRAINS AND TRUCKS LOADED WITH DEAD BODIES, THE RAW MATERIAL OF ONE OF THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONS EVER PLANNED...

WHOOO—WHOOO—WOOO.

U.W.Z.

AND THEN I AM AT THE GREAT CENTRAL PROCESSING PLANT, WITH THE CHIEF, BIG Z, WATCHING A MIRACLE...
YOU'VE DONE WELL, Z-ONE! WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR CITIES, AND THE CORPSES ARE COMING IN AT THE RATE OF HALF MILLION A DAY! THEY'LL NEVER STOP US NOW!
NO! NOT A CHANCE! AFTER ALL, WE HAD OUR MEN IN KEY SPOTS!
YES! OUR MEN WERE EVERYWHERE! IN THE POLICE, THE GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, THE F.B.I.! ANOTHER WEEK AND WE'LL HAVE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!
THANKS TO YOU, CHIEF! YOU PLANNED THE WHOLE THING!
U.W.Z.
WE INSPECT THE HUGE PLANT, BUILT SECRETLY, AND AT A TREMENDOUS COST, AND SO ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PLAN...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW THIS WORKS, CHIEF! OH, I KNOW THAT YOU REACTIVATE THEM, THEN SEND THEM THROUGH THE INDOCTRINATION TANK, BUT WHERE ARE THEY GOING NOW? WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
FINAL OUTFITTING ROOM! THEY'RE SORTED AND ASSIGNED TO JOBS! COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
AND IN MY DREAM, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, I ALWAYS MARVEL AT THE MIRACLE...
YOU SEE, Z-ONE! THREE MINUTES AFTER A CORPSE IS UNLOADED AT THE FRONT GATE— IT COMES OUT HERE! READY TO GO TO WORK FOR US!
HEH-HEH! NOT MUCH LIKE THE OLD DAYS, EH? THOSE OLD FOOLS WITH THEIR VOODOO AND CHARMS— TOOK THEM DAYS TO PRODUCE ONE ZOMBIE!
THEY MAKE PERFECT SOLDIERS! NO FEAR— NO MINDS! YES, WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE OLD DAYS, Z-ONE!
AND WE'LL GO A LOT FARTHER, CHIEF! TOMORROW THE WORLD!
NOTHING IS SO VIVID IN MY DREAM AS THE TOAST THE CHIEF ALWAYS GIVES...
HERE'S TO TOMORROW! OUR TOMORROW— THE TOMORROW OF THE U.W.Z.!
HAIL! THE UNITED WORLD ZOMBIES!
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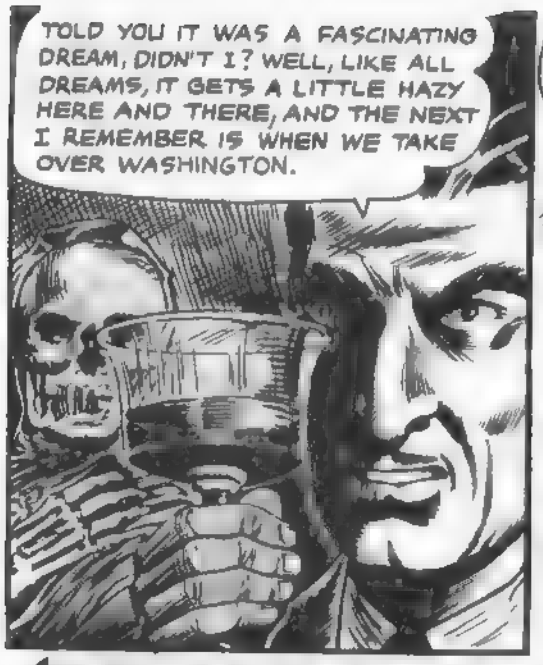
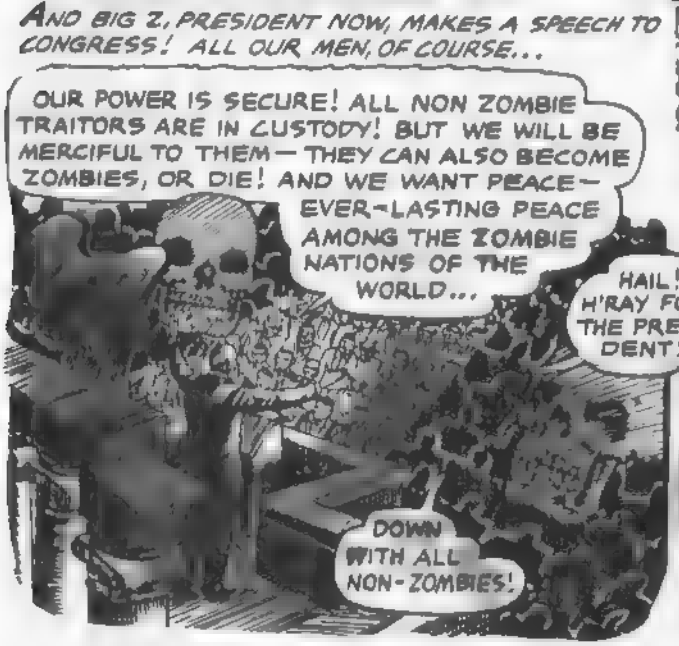


AND BIG Z, PRESIDENT NOW, MAKES A SPEECH TO CONGRESS! ALL OUR MEN, OF COURSE...



ONCE OUR REVOLUTION HAD BEGUN, THERE WAS NO STOPPING IT! IN MY DREAM I ALWAYS SEE THE GLOBE SHAPED TOWERS OF THE KREMLIN, WHERE THE ZOMBIES HAD ALSO SEIZED POWER.

AND IN FRANCE WE HAD ALSO COME TO POWER...

IN ENGLAND ALSO...

WE SET UP CAMPS FOR THE NON-ZOMBIES! REHABILITATION CAMPS, WE CALLED THEM...

GET IN, YOU SWINE! HURRY!

WHY DON'T YOU LET US KILL THESE NON-ZOMBIE DOGS?

THE NON-ZOMBIES WERE A PROBLEM! AS HIGH CHIEF OF ZOMBIE SECURITY, IT WAS MY DUTY TO HANDLE THE IMPORTANT CASES...

IF YOU WERE ONLY TO CO-OPERATE WITH US, PROFESSOR NOBLE! WE CAN'T MAKE YOU *REAL* ZOMBIES WITHOUT KILLING YOU, AND WE DON'T WANT TO DO THAT! BUT IF YOU WOULD ONLY CONSENT TO BECOMING *SYNTHETIC* ZOMBIES, TO LET US *DEHUMANIZE* YOU..

NEVER! YOU MUST KILL US! WE WANT TO DIE! WE PREFER IT TO LIVING IN A WORLD OF ZOMBIES!

BUT THAT, OF COURSE, WAS WHERE WE HELD THE WHIP HAND! AS I EXPLAINED TO THE PROFESSOR...

YOU MUST OBEY! IF YOU DON'T, WE *WILL* KILL YOU, AND *THEN* REACTIVATE YOU AS A *ZOMBIE!* ALL OF YOU, WHO HATE US SO MUCH, WILL BE *ZOMBIES* YOURSELVES!

N-NO! DON'T! YOU- YOU MUST LEAVE US OUR SOULS!

SO IN THE END WE PREVAILED OVER THE REBELS! THEY WERE DEHUMANIZED AND PUT TO WORK AT JOBS THAT THE REGULAR ZOMBIES COULD NOT VERY WELL DO...

THEY'RE WORKING OUT WELL, SIR! JUST LIKE HUMAN ADDING MACHINES! THEY WORK 24 HOURS A DAY, AND NEVER NEED ANY REST!

YES! THE DEHUMANIZING PROCESS DIDN'T INJURE THEIR BRAINS! BUT THEIR SOULS, HAH-HAH- THEY'VE LOST THEM! IF THEY- (CHUCKLE)- EVER HAD ANY!

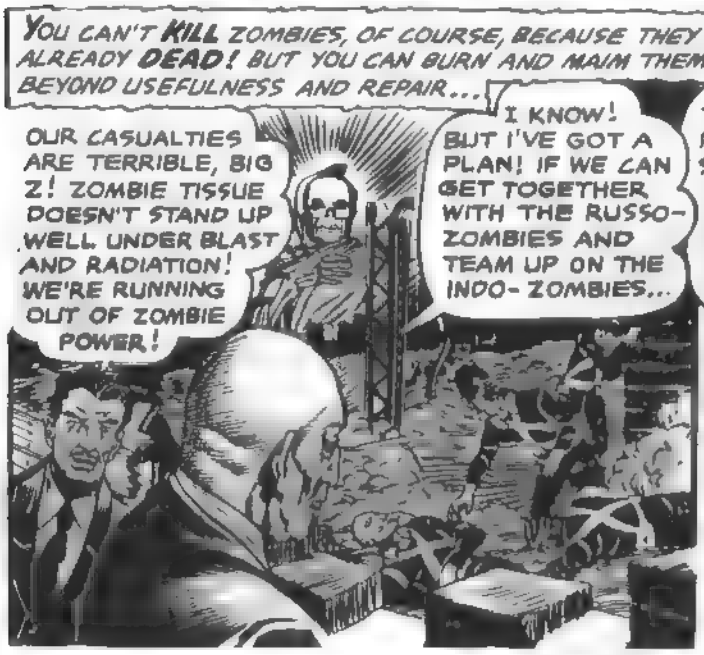
"SO, IN MY DREAM, THE ZOMBIES ARE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD! ONLY IT DOESN'T LAST LONG! DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT IT SEEMS THAT ZOMBIES CAN BE JUST AS STUPID AS SO-CALLED PEOPLE! ONE DAY I AM SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OR, AS I STILL CALL HIM, BIG Z..."

ALERT YOUR ZOMBIE SECURITY POLICE, Z-ONE! IT'S WAR! RIGHT NOW OUR PLANES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BOMB MOSCOW! THERE'S AN UPRISING THERE!

B-BOMBING—BUT BIG Z, THIS IS MADNESS! WAR WILL TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT UP!

BUT BIG Z WAS RIGHT, AS USUAL! WE FOUND THAT THEY WERE PLANNING TO BOMB US, SO WE GOT THE JUMP...

ONLY THEY RETALIATED — ON NEW YORK...


YOU CAN'T KILL ZOMBIES, OF COURSE, BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD! BUT YOU CAN BURN AND MAIM THEM BEYOND USEFULNESS AND REPAIR...
OUR CASUALTIES ARE TERRIBLE, BIG Z! ZOMBIE TISSUE DOESN'T STAND UP WELL UNDER BLAST AND RADIATION! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF ZOMBIE POWER!
I KNOW! BUT I'VE GOT A PLAN! IF WE CAN GET TOGETHER WITH THE RUSSO-ZOMBIES AND TEAM UP ON THE INDO-ZOMBIES...

BUT BIG Z NEVER PUT HIS PLAN INTO EFFECT! THE NEXT DAY...
TERRIBLE NEWS, SIR! THE PRESIDENT, BIG Z HIMSELF, HAS BEEN VAPORIZED! A DIRECT HIT! YOU'RE OUR NEW LEADER! YOU'RE BIG Z NOW!

AND ONE THING I AM PROUD OF — I BROUGHT PEACE! I WORKED HARD AND I SUCCEEDED, AT LAST, IN MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR ZOMBIOCRACY...
I SIGN FOR MY COUNTRY! NOW WE HAVE PEACE! NO MORE FIGHT! ALL IS BIG BROTHERHOOD OF ZOMBIES!
YES! ALL BROTHERS NOW! LET THIS BE MY MONUMENT!

AND THAT'S MY—(YAWN)—DREAM! INTERESTING, HUH? I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE! AND DON'T THINK I'VE GOT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! I KNOW IT'S ONLY A DREAM, AND THAT IT CAN'T COME TRUE — STILL...
THE FUNNY PART OF IT IS, NONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME, SUSPECT WHAT I REALLY AM... A DREAMER, YES.... BUT ALSO A ZOMBIE! HEH-HEH-HEH!
The End

The GAME CALLED DYING

"HE MATES, AND CHECKS, AND SLAYS, AND ONE BY ONE BACK IN THE CLOSET LAYS." OMAR.

SHIFTY JOE YANNER, WHO COULD DISPUTE ANY MAN'S CLAIM TO BEING THE BIGGEST ROGUE IN AFRICA...

HATES THE DUTCHMAN, WHO OWNS TWO THIRDS OF THE DIAMOND MINE AND THE AFFECTIONS OF YALA...

SUCH WAS THE UNSAVORY SITUATION! ONE NIGHT WHEN THE DAYS DIGGING WAS BEING DIVIDED...
YA, WE DO GOOD TODAY! GOOD STONES! WE GOT BEST LIDDLE DIAMOND MINE IN AFRICA, I TINK!
C'MON, DUTCHMAN! GIMME MY SHARE!
YA...HERE! ONE THIRD FOR YOU, SHIFTY! I GEEP TWO THIRDS!
YEAH, LIKE ALWAYS, YUH ROTTEN HUNK OF BLUBBER!
YA, JOE, YOU DON'T FOOL ME! I KNOW YOU HATE ME! HAH-HAH— MAYBE SOME DAY I GIVE YOU MORE DIAMONDS. MAYBE EVEN GIVE YOU LIDDLE GIRL, HUH?
I WANTA BE AROUND WHEN YOU GIVE SOMETHING AWAY, DUTCHMAN!
WE BLAY CHESS NOW, HUH? FORGET OUR TROUBLES! TONIGHT I BEAT YOU LIKE ALWAYS!
CHESS
MIGHT AS WELL PLAY THE CRUMMY GAME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP FROM GOING NUTS IN THIS JUNGLE HOLE!
HAH-HAH—PRETTY SOON RIVER STEAMER COME, JOE, BRING YOU SOME NEW PINUP PICTURES, YA!
YA, I TINK I GOT YOU CHECKMATE SOON, JOE! YOU GOT NO BRAINS FOR CHESS!
I GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF YOU— WHEN THE TIME COMES!

THE WITCHE'S BROTH BEGINS TO BUBBLE! A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
YA, NEFER WAS I SO TIRED, JOE! I TINK I — YAWN— TURN IN!
YOU'RE TIRED! HAH! I DO ALL THE WORK AROUND HERE, DON'T I?
LATER, JOE GOES FOR A WALK BY THE RIVER, HIS THOUGHTS AS DEEP AND MUDDY AS THE STREAM...
I AIN'T GONNA TAKE MUCH MORE OF THE DUTCHMAN! I GOTTA ACT SOON, BEFORE THE RIVER BOAT ARRIVES! ONLY THE DUTCHMAN IS PRETTY SMART!
WHEN YALA FINISHES BATHING...
HI, YALA! I BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! THAT WAS A— HEH-HEH— GOOD SHOW!
YOU! SPYING ON YALA!
YALA! THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M GONNA TAKE AWAY FROM THE DUTCHMAN! MIGHT AS WELL START NOW!
C'MON, BABY! PUT THE KNIFE AWAY! I WON'T HURT YOU, HONEST! GET WISE...
STAY AWAY, YOU DIRTY PIG! YALA CUT!
OWWW—YOU LITTLE DEVIL! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
YOU WILL PAY— WHEN I TELL THE DUTCHMAN!

JOE'S BRAIN REELS IN A TERRIBLE ANGER, AS THOUGH THE BLOOD WERE OOZING FROM HIS VERY SOUL...
I'LL GET THEM! I'LL GET THEM BOTH! I'LL GET EVEN RIGHT NOW— TONIGHT!
MINUTES LATER...
I GOT TO DO IT FAST BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE! THE FAT CLOWN DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
HUH! JOE! NO— DON'T GAAAAAA—
YALA HEARS THE SHOT...
SWINE! YOU KILL MY DUTCHMAN! I KILL YOU!
NO, YALA! LISTEN! WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL— PUT THAT KNIFE AWAY!
I KILL— KILL!
YOU CRAZY LITTLE WENCH! OUCH! CUT IT OUT, I TELL YA! I'LL SHOOT!
MAYBE JOE MEANT TO KILL HER, MAYBE NOT! WHO KNOWS...
OWWWW— I—AHHHH...
YALA!

JOE WORKS LATE THAT NIGHT...
THERE! THE CURRENT OUGHTA CARRY 'EM DOWN-STREAM! OR MAYBE THE CROCS WILL GET THEM! THAT WOULD BE BEST!

AND LATER...
I GOTTA HAVE A STORY WHEN THE RIVER STEAMER COMES! I'LL SAY THEY BOTH DIED OF FEVER! YEAH, THAT'S IT! AND I HADDA BURY 'EM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE!

ALL MINE NOW! I'M RICH, ONLY I GOTTA GET OUT OF AFRICA! WISH THAT BOAT WAS DUE TOMORROW 'STEAD OF NEXT WEEK!

BUT THE HOURS HANG LIKE LEADEN WEIGHTS...
I'M GOING NUTS! I K-KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE DUTCH-MAN'S FACE JUST BEFORE I SHOT HIM! I GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

I KNOW! I'LL PLAY THAT BLASTED GAME WITH MYSELF! AT LEAST IT'LL PASS THE TIME!
CHESS

HAH-HAH— THIS IS ONE TIME I'LL BEAT THAT CURSED DUTCHMAN!

A ROARING LIKE A CATARACT IN JOE'S EARS! THE ROOM FILLS WITH FOG — AND OUT OF THE FOG...
YA, JOE! WE HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
AGHHH! THAT HAND! THE D-DUTCHMAN...
YIIIII — I'M SEEING THINGS! THAT H-HAND AIN'T REALLY THERE! IT C-CAN'T BE!
YOU WAS ALWAYS A COWARD, JOE! YA! NOW COME AND HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
I GIVE YOU CHANCE, JOE! FOR YOUR LIFE, YA! YOU BEAT THE DUTCHMAN ONE GAME AND I LET YOU LIFF! YA?
OKAY, DUTCHMAN! I'LL P-PLAY YOU! ONLY IT AIN'T FAIR! Y-YOU'RE TOO GOOD!
YOU BLAY, JOE! WE SEE!
SO, HIS HANDS GREASY WITH THE SWEAT OF FEAR, JOE PLAYS FOR HIS LIFE...
I—I DUNNO! CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT! IF I MAKE ONE MORE MISTAKE...
YOUR MOVE, YA!
WHAT!
YOUR QUEEN, JOE!

REMORSELESSLY, PIECE BY PIECE, THE HAND CLEARS THE BOARD...
I—I AIN'T GOT A CHANCE! THAT—THAT THING IS GONNA KILL ME!
THEN THE SUDDEN MIRACLE...
I GOT YOU! I WIN! CHECKMATE!
YA, JOE! YOU WIN!
I FINALLY BEAT YA, YA STUPID DUTCHMAN! NOW YOU GOT TO LEMME GO! YA PROMISED!
SURE, JOE! I PROMISED, YA!
I GEEP PROMISE, JOE—FOR NOW! YA! GOOT PYE, JOE!
MINUTES LATER...
IT'S GONE! AND I'M GETTING OUTA HERE BEFORE IT COMES BACK! TONIGHT!
NO TIME TO WAIT FOR THE STEAMER! THIS OLD DUGOUT AIN'T MUCH, BUT MAYBE SHE'LL GET ME DOWN TO THE PORT! AWAY FROM THAT—(SHUDDER)—HAND!

AN HOUR LATER...
CROCS! NEVER SAW SO MANY BEFORE! THEY'RE AFTER SOMETHING IN THE WATER!
THE B-BODIES!

JOE'S SCREAM BREAKS THE JUNGLE QUIET AT THE SIGHT OF THE DUTCHMAN...
EEEEEEAAAAA!
HIS RIGHT HAND! G—GONE!

THEN...
YOU MADE LIDDLE MISTAKE, JOE! I'M STILL HERE! YA!
NO! DON'T! AHHHH— SAVE ME! THE CROGS...

NAAAAAAAAA

CHECKMATE, JOE! YA!
The End

CRACK-UP

AS SHOCKING, AS SPINE-CHILLING AS A SIREN IN THE NIGHT IS THIS STORY OF A MURDERED MAN WHO WALKED THE EARTH! HE TOOK VENGEANCE INTO HIS OWN BLOODY HANDS AND USED FEAR AS A WEAPON TO THROTTLE A KILLER! THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM THE HORRIBLE REVENGE OF THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T STAY MURDERED...

STAY AWAY! YOU'RE **DEAD!** I'VE KILLED YOU OVER AND OVER!

HAH-HAH-THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, YOU MURDERER!

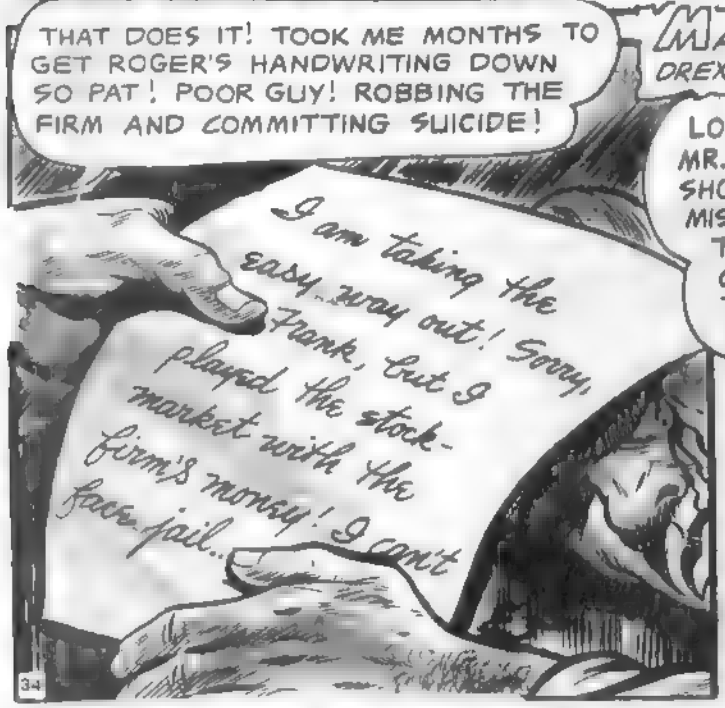
ROGER SIMON, JUNIOR PARTNER OF DREXEL AND SIMON, WORKS LATE OVER THE BOOKS...

WHAT A MESS! I HOPE FRANK CAN EXPLAIN THIS!

WHILE OUTSIDE MURDER LURKS IN THE SHADOWS..

LOOKS LIKE ROGER IS WISE TO ME! HE KNOWS I'VE BEEN STEALING MONEY FROM THE FIRM! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING THIS!

IN THE LAST SECOND OF HIS LIFE, ROGER SIMON HEARS A NOISE, AND...



MATTERS GO JUST ABOUT AS FRANK DREXEL THOUGHT THEY WOULD...

FRANK DREXEL SUFFERS NO PANGS OF CONSCIENCE! ONE NIGHT A FEW WEEKS LATER...
GOOD! THE FIRM IS MAKING A LOT OF MONEY SINCE I GOT RID OF ROGER! I'LL BE RICH SOON!
SUDDENLY THERE IS A KNOCKING AT THE DOOR...
HUH! SOMEONE KNOCKING AT THIS HOUR! BUT THE BUILDING IS DESERTED! WELL, COME IN, WHOEVER YOU ARE! DON'T STAND THERE!
THE DOOR SWINGS SLOWLY BACK, AND THERE IS — ROGER SIMON!!!
HELLO, FRANK! FIXING THE BOOKS AGAIN?
HUH! ROGER! NO— YOU'RE DEAD!
AM I, FRANK? I SUPPOSE YOU SHOULD KNOW. YOU KILLED ME, DIDN'T YOU?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS! BUT I KILLED YOU ONCE AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
IN A FRENZY OF FEAR AND RAGE, DREXEL FIRES AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE MAN HE HAS ALREADY MURDERED ONCE...
I'LL MAKE A GOOD JOB OF IT THIS TIME! MAYBE YOU'LL STAY DEAD!
AAAAHHHHHHHH— OOHHHH—

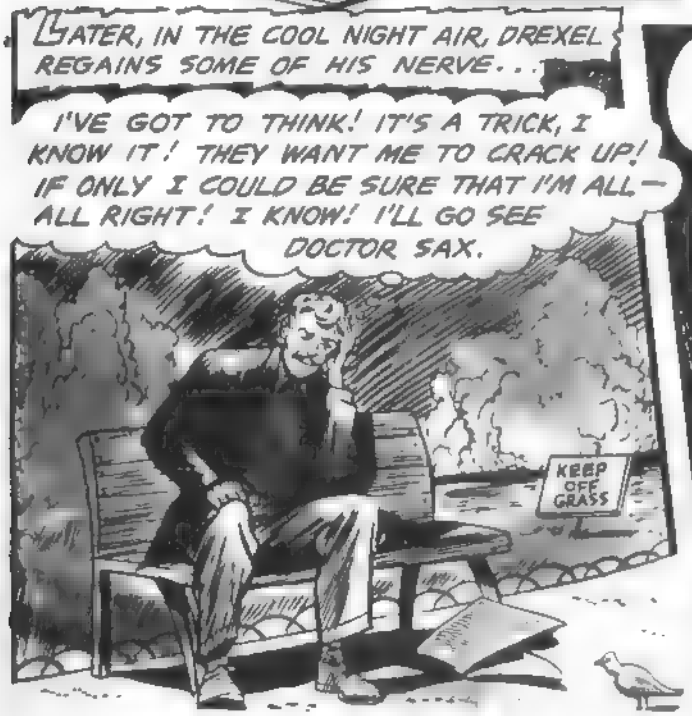
AFTER HIS FIRST TERRIBLE SHOCK, DREXEL BEGINS TO PLAN SHREWDLY...
A TRICK OF ROGER'S! HE PRETENDED TO BE DEAD, THEN WENT TO THE POLICE! THEY'RE TRYING TO TRAP ME! BUT I'LL HIDE HIS BODY AND GET AWAY YET!
GOOD THING I'VE BEEN ACCUMULATING CASH! I'LL BE IN MEXICO BEFORE THEY KNOW THAT I'VE REALLY KILLED ROGER THIS TIME!
THERE'S A LATE PLANE TONIGHT FOR MEXICO CITY! HAH— ROGER WAS CLEVER, BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH! TRYING TO SCARE ME INTO CONFESSING. AN OLD GAG...
DON'T KNOW THIS PART OF TOWN VERY WELL! I BETTER ASK THIS FELLOW HOW TO GET TO THE AIRPORT!
HEY, YOU! HOW DO YOU GET TO THE...
TO THE AIRPORT, FRANK?
LEAVING TOWN, FRANK? WITH THE LOOT, NO DOUBT!
YOU AGAIN! BUT YOU WON'T GET NEAR ME! TAXI! TAXI!
36

TAKE ME TO THE AIRPORT! HURRY!
SURE! DON'T GET EXCITED, MISTER! YOU'LL GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
TAXI

SOON DREXEL NOTICES SOMETHING WRONG!
HEY, DRIVER! THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT! I SAID...
I KNOW WHAT YA SAID, MISTER!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT THE POLICE STATION INSTEAD, FRANK! HOW ABOUT IT?
AHHHHH— YOU!

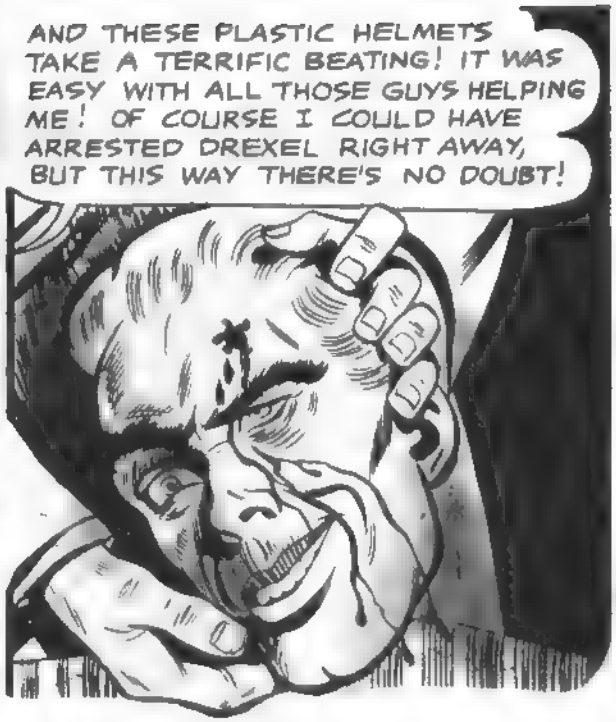
LET ME OUT! HELP! LEAVE ME ALONE!
COME BACK, FRANK!
TAXI


LATER, IN THE COOL NIGHT AIR, DREXEL REGAINS SOME OF HIS NERVE...
I'VE GOT TO THINK! IT'S A TRICK, I KNOW IT! THEY WANT ME TO CRACK UP! IF ONLY I COULD BE SURE THAT I'M ALL— ALL RIGHT! I KNOW! I'LL GO SEE DOCTOR SAX.
KEEP OFF GRASS

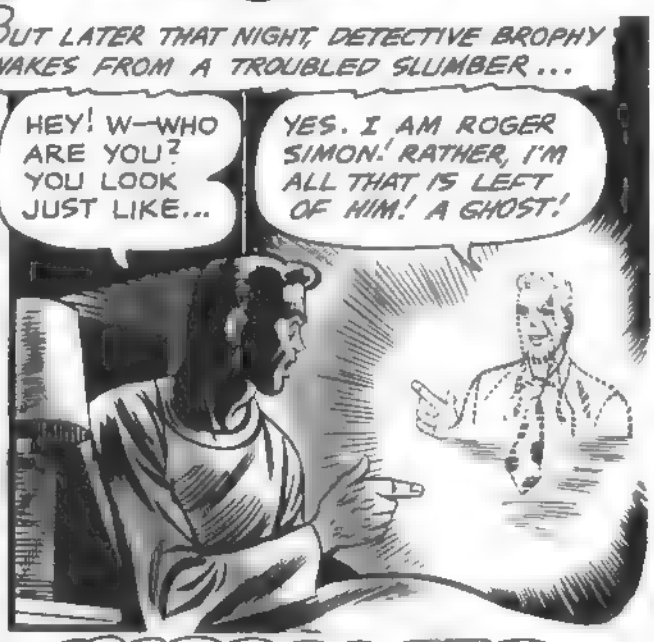
I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU, DOCTOR! IT'S LIFE OR DEATH! NOW, TONIGHT!
WELL, ALL RIGHT! COME TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

SO A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I'M WASTING TIME, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE A CHANCE! THE DOC WILL KNOW IF IT'S ONLY MY NERVES ACTING UP!
IF IT'S ONLY MY IMAGINATION, I DON'T NEED TO LEAVE TOWN! AND THE DOC IS ONE OF THE BEST!
DR JOHNATHAN SAX CONSULTING PSYCHIATRIST
DOCTOR SAX? ARE YOU AROUND? IT'S FRANK DREXEL!
COME IN, MISTER DREXEL!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, FRANK! MAKE YOURSELF— (CHUCKLE)— COMFORTABLE!
EEEEEEEEE!
A SHUDDERING SOUND RACKS THROUGH THE SICK BRAIN OF FRANK DREXEL—THE SOUND OF HIS NERVES SMASHING INTO PIECES...
LEMME OUT! HELP, POLICE! SAVE ME! GAAAAAAAAA—
AT LAST, FRANK! THE POLICE ARE JUST OUTSIDE!
HELP, POLICE! ARREST ME! SAVE ME! I DID IT— I DID IT! I MURDERED HIM! ONLY HE WON'T STAY DEAD! D-DON'T LET HIM GET M-ME! HELP!
THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW, DREXEL. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER!

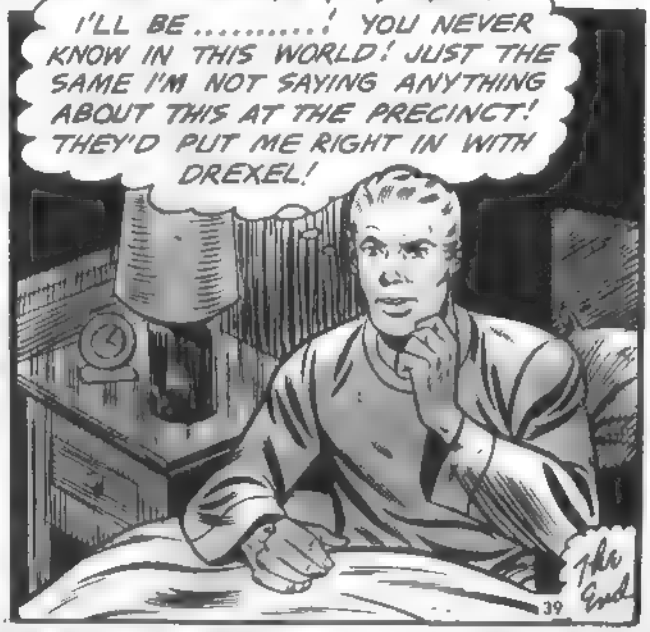
LATER, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE LOCKED UP A SNIVELING HYSTERICAL KILLER...
I HAND IT TO YOU, BROPHY! THAT TRICK WITH THE MASKS SURE WORKED! BUT THAT LOONY MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!
NOT LIKELY WITH THESE NEW PLASTIC, BULLET-PROOF VESTS WE GOT!


AND THESE PLASTIC HELMETS TAKE A TERRIFIC BEATING! IT WAS EASY WITH ALL THOSE GUYS HELPING ME! OF COURSE I COULD HAVE ARRESTED DREXEL RIGHT AWAY, BUT THIS WAY THERE'S NO DOUBT!

WELL, YOU DID IT! IT WAS SMART TO FIGURE HE MIGHT GO TO THE DOC, AND HAVE HIM CALL YOU IN TIME SO YOU COULD GET THERE!
YEAH! WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW! I WANTA GET TEN HOURS SLEEP AND FORGET THIS CASE!


BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, DETECTIVE BROPHY AWAKES FROM A TROUBLED SLUMBER...
HEY! W—WHO ARE YOU? YOU LOOK JUST LIKE...
YES. I AM ROGER SIMON! RATHER, I'M ALL THAT IS LEFT OF HIM! A GHOST!

I WANTED TO THANK YOU, DETECTIVE BROPHY! FOR CATCHING MY MURDERER SO CLEVERLY! I WAS AFRAID THAT HE WOULD GET AWAY WITH IT. AND NOW— GOODBYE...


I'LL BE.....! YOU NEVER KNOW IN THIS WORLD! JUST THE SAME I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS AT THE PRECINCT! THEY'D PUT ME RIGHT IN WITH DREXEL!
The End

SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH SEAS, LYING CONCEALED, LIKE A BEAST WAITING TO STRIKE, WAS THE ISLAND! THE YEAR ROUND IT WAS DRENCHED IN A YELLOW SHROUD OF FOG, A STEAMING MIASMA COILED AROUND THE ROTTING VEGETATION LIKE A GREAT SERPENT! MEN WHISPERED OF THIS ISLAND, AND AVOIDED IT, BECAUSE THE TALES TOLD OF IT WERE ENOUGH TO CHILL EVEN BLOOD THINNED BY THE TROPICS! BECAUSE FROM THIS DREAD SHORE NO MAN HAD EVER RETURNED! IT WAS INDEED

THE ISLE OF LOST MEN...

TORTURE Garden

FIRST MEET ANTHONY POINDEXTER, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, WHO ONE DAY HAD VANISHED COMPLETELY! THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO, AND NO MAN IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS SEEN HIM SINCE...

NOW, TEN YEARS LATER, TWO MEN ARE LOST IN A PLANE SOMEWHERE OVER THE VAST REACHES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC...

ANGUS! EITHER I'M NUTS, OR THAT'S AN ISLAND DOWN THERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, LADDIE! BUT I DINNA KEN SUCH AN ISLAND ON THE MAPS!

THE MEN ARE LANKY ANGUS McCABE AND MIKE DOLAN, DEALERS IN PEARLS AND COPRA, WHO WERE ISLAND HOPPING WHEN THEIR PLANE DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE...
HURRY, ANGUS, BEFORE THE MISTS CLOSE IN AGAIN! SET HER DOWN ON THAT STRIP OF BEACH!
AYE, MAN! I SEE IT!

WHEW! DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS ISLAND CAME FROM, BUT IT SURE SAVED OUR NECKS!
AYE! A MOMENT NOW AND I'LL PUT HER DOWN AS GENTLY AS A BABY!

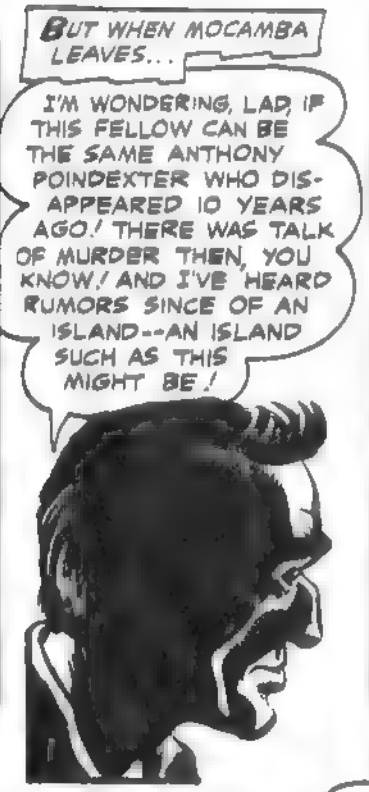
BUT A JAGGED BIT OF DRIFTWOOD, HALF CONCEALED IN THE SAND, TRIPS THE PLANE...
YIIIIIIII!
GAAAA! C-CRACKING UP!

NEARBY TWO PAIRS OF SHARP EYES WATCH THE CRASH...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY, MOCAMBO! BETTER GO SEE IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
YES, TUAN! I HOPE THEY LIVE! THERE IS NO SPORT TO BE HAD WITH THE DEAD!

SO...
THEY LIVE, TUAN! WE TAKE TO THE HOUSE?
OF COURSE! WE MUST FIX THEM UP! AS YOU SAY, THERE IS NO--CHUCKLE--SPORT TO BE HAD FROM THE DEAD, OR EVEN THE CRIPPLED!

IT IS LONG SINCE WE HAD VISITORS, TUAN! ALL MEN AVOID THIS PLACE NOW!
HEH-HEH! NOT VERY COMPLIMENTARY, IS IT, MOCAMBA! BUT THESE TWO, IF THEY LIVE, WILL FURNISH US A LITTLE FUN!

A WEEK LATER AND ANGUS McCABE AND MIKE DOLAN ARE RECOVERED FROM THEIR INJURIES...
SEEMS TO ME, LAD, THAT WE'VE BLUNDERED INTO SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! POINDEXTER IS A QUEER DUCK! AND THIS ISLAND--
YEAH! I BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING! WATCH IT--HERE COMES THE SERVANT!


BUT WHEN MOCAMBA LEAVES...
I'M WONDERING, LAD, IF THIS FELLOW CAN BE THE SAME ANTHONY POINDEXTER WHO DISAPPEARED 10 YEARS AGO! THERE WAS TALK OF MURDER THEN, YOU KNOW! AND I'VE HEARD RUMORS SINCE OF AN ISLAND--AN ISLAND SUCH AS THIS MIGHT BE!

I'VE HEARD THOSE RUMORS! BAR TALK, MOSTLY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT! BUT A LOT OF MEN HAVE STARTED TO LOOK FOR THE ISLAND--AND NONE OF THEM EVER CAME BACK!

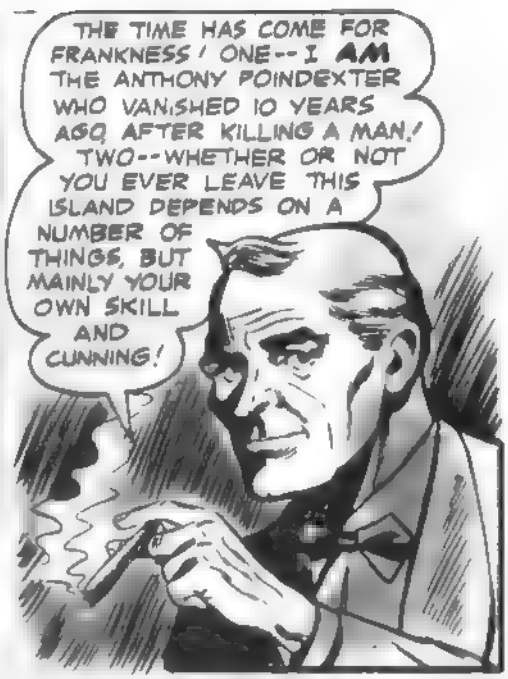
LATER...
GUESTS GROW UNEASY, TUAN! THEY MUCH PUZZLED ABOUT THIS PLACE!
GOOD! I'VE PURPOSELY STAYED OUT OF SIGHT TO MAKE THEM WONDER! WE WANT THEIR NERVES KEYED UP FOR OUR LITTLE GAME, EH, MOCAMBA?

NEXT DAY...
YOU KNOW, ANGUS, I DON'T LIKE THIS MORE AND MORE! WE'VE ONLY SEEN THIS POINDEXTER CHARACTER ONCE, AND THERE'S NOTHING TO BE GOT OUT OF THE NATIVE! I DON'T LIKE IT!
DINNA GET UPSET, LAD! MAYBE THE MAN IS A HERMIT SORT! NO DOUBT HE'LL LEND US A BOAT ONE DAY AND SAY GOODBYE!

WE'LL NEED A BOAT, THAT'S FOR SURE! NEVER BE ABLE TO PATCH THAT CRATE UP!
AYE! IT'S MAROONED WE ARE UNLESS POINDEXTER HELPS US! BUT HE MUST HAVE A CRAFT OF SOME KIND!

THAT NIGHT--A SURPRISE...
TUAN SAY TONIGHT YOU DINE WITH HIM! YOU WILL DRESS, PLEASE! FIND DINNER JACKETS IN CLOSET!
EH? SO WE GET TO SEE OUR HOST AGAIN AT LAST!
AND FORMAL, TOO, IN A FORSAKEN SPOT LIKE THIS!

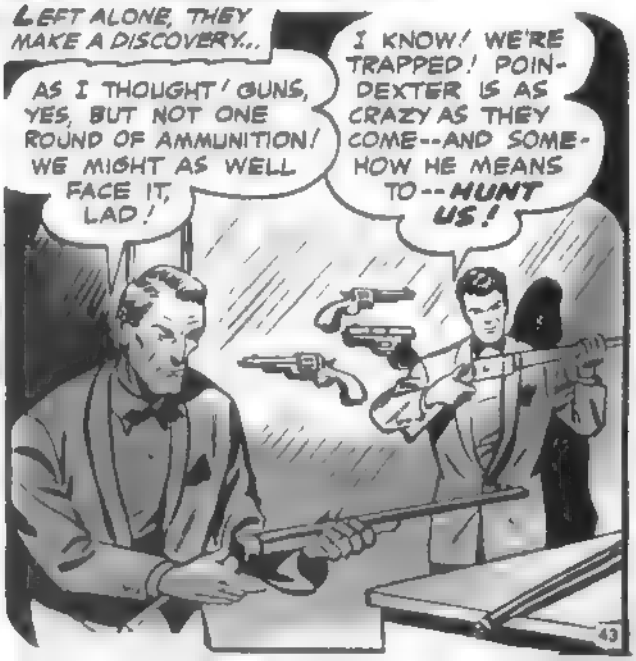
LATER AT DINNER...
WELL, GENTLEMEN, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING -- ABOUT ME AND THIS ISLAND!
I DINNA DENY IT, SIR! IT'S ALL VERRA STRANGE!
MORE TO THE POINT, MR. POINDEXTER--WE WANT TO GO HOME! WE'VE GOT OUR BUSINESS TO LOOK AFTER! NOW IF YOU'LL JUST LEND US A BOAT--


THE TIME HAS COME FOR FRANKNESS! ONE--I AM THE ANTHONY POINDEXTER WHO VANISHED 10 YEARS AGO, AFTER KILLING A MAN! TWO--WHETHER OR NOT YOU EVER LEAVE THIS ISLAND DEPENDS ON A NUMBER OF THINGS, BUT MAINLY YOUR OWN SKILL AND CUNNING!

YOU MEAN WE'RE PRISONERS?
YEAH--SUPPOSE YOU EXPLAIN ALL THIS MONKEY BUSINESS!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, GENTLEMEN! BUT FIRST I WANT TO SHOW YOU-- MY TROPHY ROOM!

AND...
HUNTING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GRAND PASSION OF MINE--AS YOU CAN SEE! I'VE HUNTED-- EVERYTHING!
TO GET BACK TO US--WHAT'S ALL THIS DOUBLE TALK! WHAT'S OUR SKILL AND CUNNING GOT TO DO WITH LEAVING THIS ISLAND?

EVEN THE MOST CUNNING OF ANIMALS, GENTLEMEN, IS NO MATCH FOR MAN! SO, LONG AGO, I GREW BORED WITH HUNTING MERE BEASTS! I LEAVE THE REST TO YOUR IMAGINATION! GOODNIGHT!
H-HUH? YOU MEAN--
AYE, LAD! I'M AFRAID THAT'S WHAT HE DOES MEAN!


LEFT ALONE, THEY MAKE A DISCOVERY...
AS I THOUGHT! GUNS, YES, BUT NOT ONE ROUND OF AMMUNITION! WE MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT, LAD!
I KNOW! WE'RE TRAPPED! POINDEXTER IS AS CRAZY AS THEY COME--AND SOMEHOW HE MEANS TO--HUNT US!

SOON THE TWO MEN FIND THAT THEIR STRANGE HOST IS NOT JOKING, OR, IF HE IS, IT IS A GRIM JOKE...

YOU STAY IN HERE, TONIGHT! TUAN'S ORDERS!

HOOT LOOKS LIKE THE HOSPITALITY IS ALL GONE! THIS CELL--

OF ALL THE BLASTED-- WAIT TILL I SEE THAT NUT! I'LL--

YE'LL DO NOTHING RASH, MY LAD! I TELL YOU THIS IS SERIOUS! WE'RE IN REAL TROUBLE! I DINNA DOUBT FOR A MOMENT THAT POINDEXTER IS AS MAD AS A HATTER!

MAYBE! BUT WHAT'S HE UP TO? WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT HUNTING, AND MAYBE WE GET OFF THE ISLAND AND MAYBE WE DON'T?

WHEN MORNING COMES---

TUAN READY NOW! SAY YOU HURRY!

OKAY--OKAY! GO EASY WITH THAT GUN!

NOW WE FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS! AND IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS-- WE WON'T LIKE IT!

AND IT IS...

HERE! A KNIFE FOR EACH OF YOU! AND DON'T TRY TO USE THEM ON ME-- YET! MOCAMBA WILL KILL YOU!

HMMM--SO WE DO GET A KNIFE!

HUH! WHAT FOR?

YOU, GENTLEMEN, ARE THE QUARRY TODAY! I SHALL HUNT YOU DOWN JUST AS I WOULD A WILD ANIMAL, ONLY I HOPE YOU ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO GIVE ME BETTER SPORT! IF YOU LIVE, EITHER OF YOU, FOR 24 HOURS, I WILL SEND YOU BACK TO CIVILIZATION! AND GIVE YOU 50,000 DOLLARS!

AND MOCAMBA OPENS FIRE...

YOU GO NOW OR I KILL!

C'MON, ANGUS! RUN!

YES! INTO THE JUNGLE!

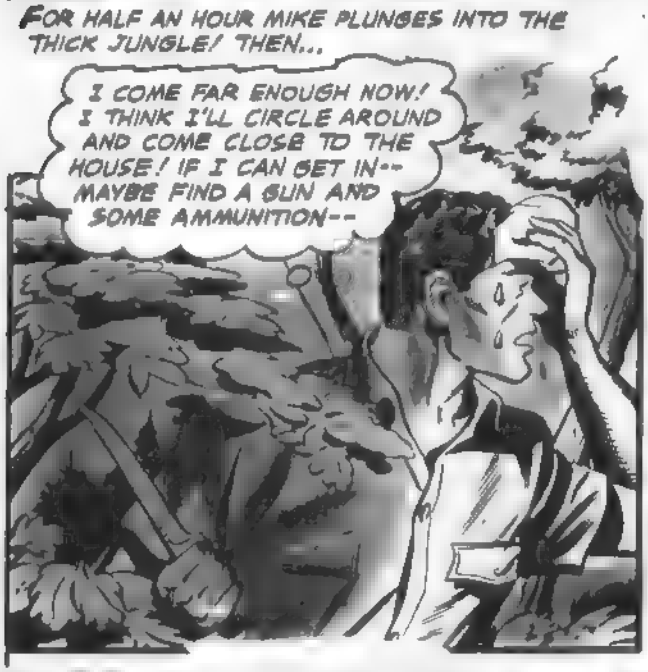
GOODBYE, GENTLEMAN! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE HOUR'S START!

THE DIRTY BUZZARD REALLY MEANS IT, ANGUS! HE'S GOING TO HUNT US DOWN!

HE DOES THAT! WE'D BETTER--PUFF--REST SOON AND DO SOME THINKING! THESE KNIVES AREN'T MUCH GOOD AGAINST GUNS!

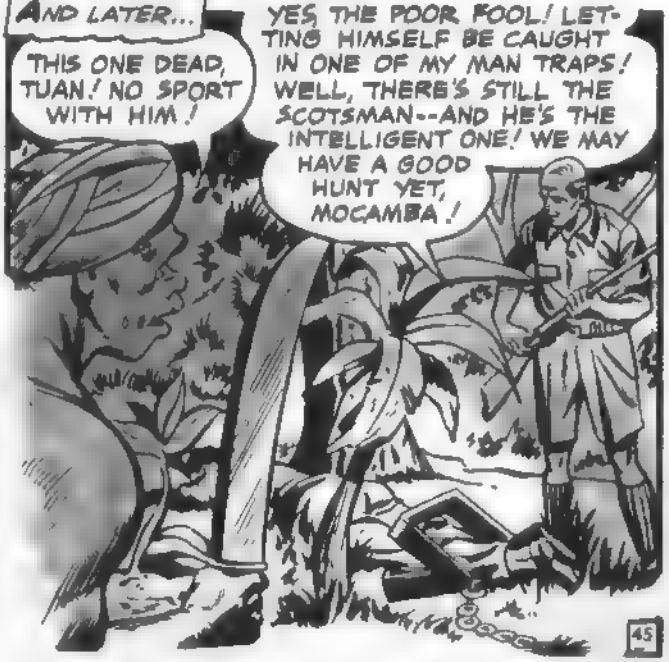
WITH PRECIOUS TIME LEAKING AWAY THEY HOLD A COUNCIL OF WAR...
I'M OF A MIND THAT WE MUST SEPERATE, LAD! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! MAYBE ONE OF US CAN MAKE IT!
YEAH--I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD RIGHT NOW! THAT CRAZY MAN KNOWS THE ISLAND LIKE THE PALM OF HIS HAND! AND HE'S GOT A GUN!

AND...
S'LONG, ANGUS! I HOPE YOU MAKE IT! AND IF YOU DON'T, OR I DON'T-- YOU BEEN A SWELL FRIEND!
AYE, LAD, AND SO HAVE YOU! LOOK ALIVE NOW-- AND MAYBE WE CAN BEAT THIS LUNATIC YET! I THINK HE'LL KEEP HIS WORD--IF WE CAN BEAT HIM AT THIS DEVIL'S GAME!


FOR HALF AN HOUR MIKE PLUNGES INTO THE THICK JUNGLE! THEN...
I COME FAR ENOUGH NOW! I THINK I'LL CIRCLE AROUND AND COME CLOSE TO THE HOUSE! IF I CAN GET IN-- MAYBE FIND A GUN AND SOME AMMUNITION--

SUDDENLY...
YIIIIIIII!
NAP!

GAAA--MY--L-LEGS, BROKEN! I--CRUSHED! DIRTY RAT! I-- UNNNNN!


AND LATER...
THIS ONE DEAD, TUAN! NO SPORT WITH HIM!
YES, THE POOR FOOL! LETTING HIMSELF BE CAUGHT IN ONE OF MY MAN TRAPS! WELL, THERE'S STILL THE SCOTSMAN--AND HE'S THE INTELLIGENT ONE! WE MAY HAVE A GOOD HUNT YET, MOCAMBA!

AT THAT MOMENT...
AYE, POOR MIKE WAS FOOLISH TO LET HIMSELF BE CAUGHT SO! I'LL NO OBLIGE YE THAT WAY, MR. POINDEXTER! BUT IT'S GIVEN ME AN IDEA!

SO... POINDEXTER MUST KNOW WHERE EACH ONE OF HIS DIRTY TRAPS IS LOCATED! BUT IF I CAN FIND ONE, AND CHANGE IT, THEN WE'LL SEE--

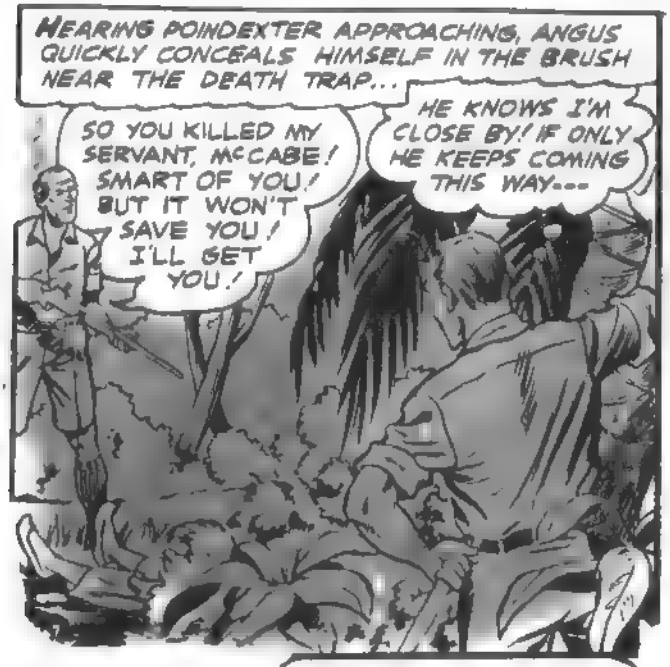
SOON... A FIENDISH MACHINE! BUT I'VE FOUND IT AND NOW MAYBE I CAN OUTFOX THE FOX! I DINNA KEN THAT MY SCHEME WILL WORK, BUT IT'S AS GOOD A CHANCE AS I'LL GET!

CAUTIOUSLY ANGUS MOVES THE DEADLY TRAP TO A NEW POSITION AND COVERS IT WITH GRASSES...
DONE! NOW IF I CAN ENTICE THE LUNATIC INTO PURSUING ME-- AND LEAD HIM INTO HIS OWN TRAP! I'LL HAVE REVENGE FOR YE YET, MIKE, LAD!

BUT JUST THEN...
HO--YOU FIND TRAP! I TELL-- TUAN! COME!
GOT TO KILL HIM!

I CAN'T HANDLE TWO OF THEM! GOT TO KILL HIM FAST!
TUAN! I FIND-- COME QUICK!

PART PAYMENT FOR MIKE, YOU HEATHEN! I HOPE IT HURTS YOU!
EYEEEE!


HEARING POINDEXTER APPROACHING, ANGUS QUICKLY CONCEALS HIMSELF IN THE BRUSH NEAR THE DEATH TRAP...
SO YOU KILLED MY SERVANT, McCABE! SMART OF YOU! BUT IT WON'T SAVE YOU! I'LL GET YOU!
HE KNOWS I'M CLOSE BY! IF ONLY HE KEEPS COMING THIS WAY---

AND THEN...
I--YAOWW!
LITTLE SURPRISE, POINDEXTER! I CHANGED THE TRAP!

I--UH--HELP ME! CRUSHING ME-- GAAA! DON'T LET ME DIE IN THIS--UNHH-- HELP, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!
AYE--I'LL HELP YOU!-- TO THE NEAREST PORT, AND TO A TRIAL FOR MURDER--WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU DESERVE! BUT MOST LIKELY THEY'LL PUT YE IN THE ASYLUM FOR LIFE! NOW-- WHERE IS THE BOAT?

LATER...
A GOOD THING YOU TALKED, POINDEXTER! MAYBE THE SURGEONS CAN SAVE THOSE LEGS YET! BUT NOW I'LL BE GETTING UNDER WAY!
I SHOULD LEAVE YOU HERE TO DIE, BUT I'M A STICKLER FOR SEEING THINGS THROUGH TO THE END!
MANTRAP

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU FOOL! GO TO THE ENGINE--HEH--HEH! OPEN THE COWLING! THERE, NOW! JUST INSIDE THE-- NO, TO THE RIGHT! YES, THAT'S IT! THE STARTER SWITCH! NOW JUST FLICK IT, WITH ONE SIMPLE LITTLE MOTION! YES! YOU TURNED IT ON--

WITH A TOUCH OF HIS FINGERS, McCABE THREW ON THE AUTOMATIC STARTER-SWITCH... AND SPRUNG THE LAST TRAP... THE SWITCH HAD BEEN MOST CAREFULLY WIRED... WITH DYNAMITE!
Y!!!!!!!
The End

THE LIVING DEAD

THE STRANGER WAS TIRED... ALL HE WANTED WAS TO SLEEP! HOW COULD HE KNOW HE WOULD WAKE UP AND MEET...

YEAAA! THE CITY OF THE DEAD... IT'S C-COMING ALIVE!!

I--I CAN'T BE ALL ALONE HERE! HELLO THERE!! HELLO!
(GASP) I AM ALL ALONE! ONLY M-MY ECHO! IT-- IT'S A CITY OF THE DEAD!
HELLO-O-O-O-O

(GASP) WH-? NO! NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

I--I WARNED YOU...
EEYAHH!

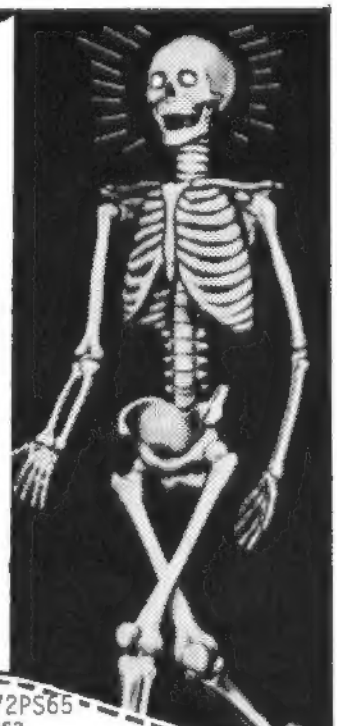
A JUNKMAN BECOMES A GHOUL TO THE CONFUSED HITCH-HIKER...
OHHHH--
YAHH-- NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE! THEY'RE COMING!

LATER...
OHH-- WHERE AM-- TIME? O-OHHH! T-TWELVE O'CLOCK!

AM I SEEING TH-THINGS? THOSE WINDOWS--DOORS-- FLYING OPEN BY THEMSELVES!

CONTINUED ON THE BACK COVER

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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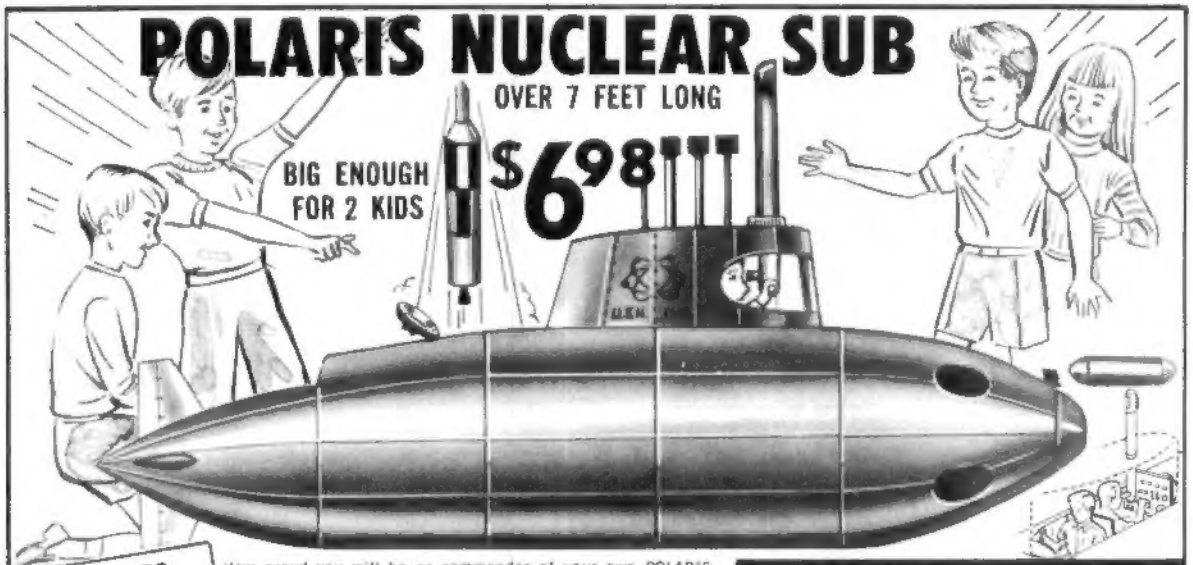

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NO-- NO! PLEASE STOP IT!

I....I'M GOING OUT OF MY MIND! I--RUN...RUN!!

YAHH-- I-I CAN'T STAND IT-- I... AGHHH!

HOW'D THIS GUY GET IN HERE? EVERYBODY LIVING HERE WAS EVICTED MONTHS AGO! AH--HE'S COMING TO!
W...WHA...? I-- NO...LET ME GO! YOU'RE GHOSTS... GHOSTS!!
HE THINKS WE'RE GHOSTS! HE MUST BE NUTS...

GHOSTS... GHOSTS! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!
WAIT! J-JOE... LOOK! THIS AREA LOOKS AS IF IT WERE BLASTED!
EH? YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BLAST HERE TODAY...WHO COULD HAVE... WHY...

--JOE--I JUST REMEMBERED...THIS HOUSING PROJECT IS ON THE SITE OF AN OLD CEMETERY!
THE END!